

Matthew Beirne

The proposal to build a dam on the Chehalis River is a truly horrible and misguided proposal, regardless of the supposed "unique flow-through design". This project would permanently alter natural stream flow regimes to which anadromous fish have adapted over millennia, exacerbate adverse impacts to climate change, limit recreational access, and cause further reduction in natural salmon habitat and productivity. It is truly shocking to me that this project is being given serious consideration given the wealth of data regarding adverse impacts of damming rivers, particularly in the PNW. The removals of the Elwha River dams and the Klamath River dams have been powerful examples of how salmonids and riparian ecosystems can be recovered and restored. The answer to flood impacts lies in limited floodplain development, setting back housing and agricultural development, and reducing impervious surfaces. Retreating to early industrial era thinking about "managing rivers" is irresponsible, short sighted, and displays a breathtaking level of ignorance in science and natural processes. I am strongly opposed to any form of dam construction, regardless of how "fish friendly" engineers believe it will be. Thank you. Matt Beirne